

Appl. No.: 09/833540  
Amdt. Dated: September 3, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of: July 9, 2004



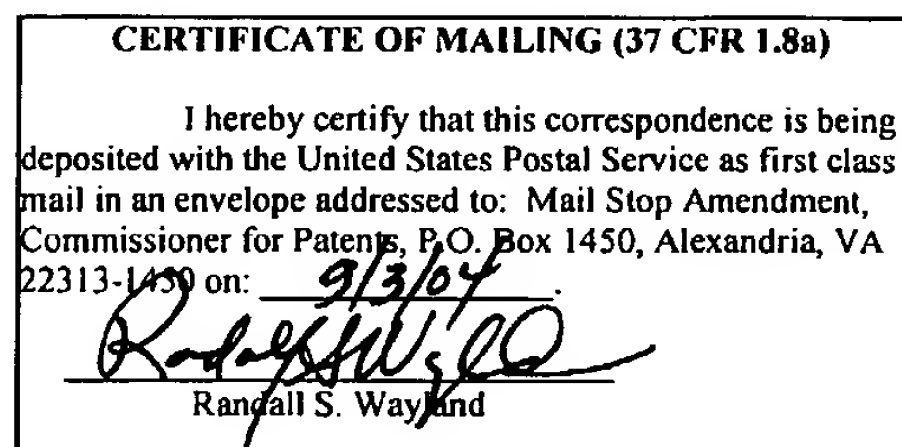
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/833,540  
Applicant : John T. Brown, et al.  
Filed : 4/11/2001  
Title : SUBSTANTIALLY DRY, SILICA-CONTAINING SOOT,  
: FUSED SILICA AND OPTICAL FIBER SOOT PREFORMS,  
: APPARATUS, METHODS AND BURNERS FOR  
: MANUFACTURING SAME

TC/A.U. : 1731  
Examiner : Carlos N. Lopez

Docket No. : SP00-130

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



RESPONSE

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action of July 9, 2004, please amend the above-identified as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 33 of this paper.